(d) Steps being taken to raise the standard of performance include emphasis on sports in educational institutions as well as in rural areas; prioritization of disciplines; stress on the development of Juniors/Sub-Juniors; preparation of Long Term Development Plans in consultation with National Federations; involvement of the Corporate sector; development of sports infrastructure; scientific back up to sportspersons etc

Grant to Indian Studies Centre (ISC)

2384 SMT KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the grant which used to be given to the Indian Studies Centre at St Antony's College Oxford since 1983 even after an inspection in April 1996 by the Director of University Section, Ministry of Human Resource Development who was highly impressed by the work that was going on;

(b) whether there is any proposal to taken immediate steps for continuation of the grant since the centre promote academic study of India abroad and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) In 1982 with the approval of the Prime Minister financial support was provided for the setting up of a Centre for Indian Studies at St Antony's College Oxford for a period of 3 years Financial support @ £ 20 000 p a was given to the College Subsequently the financial assistance was extended for another 4 years i e 1986-87, 1989-90 with the clear understanding that it would not be possible to provide further assistance In November 1992 it was decided to provide financial assistance to the Centre for another 2-3 years by which time they would be in a position to raise their fund locally

The support to the Institute has been extended on the clear understanding that they would have to raise further resources locally and it would not be possible to provide further financial assistance to this centre The Government is not aware of the efforts made in this direction by St Antony's College

Illegal Immigrants

2385 SHRI G.M BANATWALLA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government had taken up with the foreign Governments the question of illegal immigrants from their countries to India;

(b) if so, when and with which countries; and

(c) the details of response of each such country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) The question of illegal immigration has been taken up by Ministry of Home Affairs with the Government of Bangladesh only. The matter was discussed at length during the visit of our Home Secretary to Dhaka in October, 1993. The Bangladesh side had agreed to study with us the causes of cross border movements, to recommend measures for its elimination and to revive push back arrangements between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force. The matter was also discussed subsequently in the meetings of the Joint Working Group held in March 1994 and April 1995

National Policy for Women

2386 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to re-examine the National Policy for Women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The Government has not yet approved the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women.

Health Schemes

2387 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the health schemes involving participation of charitable or voluntary organisations in operation at present in the country.

(b) the budgetary provisions and actual amount spent on these schemes during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the method of monitoring and the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Scheme to CWC for Supply of Potable Water

2388. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any scheme to Central Water Commission for supply of potable water to Mumbai, for approval;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearning the scheme;

(c) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be approved;

(d) whether the Government are trying to obtain financial assistance from World Bank for this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the source of funding the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme was examined in Central Water Commission (CWC) and Government of Maharashtra was asked to reformulate the scheme considering certain technical observations. Government of Maharashtra has not yet submitted the revised scheme to CWC.

(c) No definite time frame can be indicated at present in view of the revision of the project and the clearances required to be furnished by the State Government.

(d) to (f). Government of Maharashtra has submitted the scheme "Bombay IV Middle Vaitarne Water Supply Project" costing about Rs. 570 crores to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for posing the project to World Bank for assistance. The matter is under correspondence between Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and Government of Maharashtra regarding clearances from various agencies.

China's Sale of Nuclear Equipment to Pak

2389. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated October 10, 1996 captioned as "China sells N-equipment to Pak" and also in The Hindu dated October 10, 1996, captioned as "China sold more N-arms tech. to Pak";

(b) if so, the details of China's sale of nuclear equipment to Pakistan and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen news reports on the transfer of nuclear equipment by China to Pakistan.

(b) and (c). Government are fully aware of the clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme. The security situation of India is constantly under review particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood. Government continues to take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Repair of NHs in Delhi

2390. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Highways passing through Delhi State;

(b) whether these National Highways are in a dilapidated condition due to lack of repairs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Five National Highways are passing through National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) to (d). All these National Highways are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available resources.

Pilgrimage Abroad

2391. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims, who had visited various religious places abroad during each of the last three years, religious place-wise;

(b) the criteria being adopted for their selection, religious place-wise;

(c) the financial/logistical/organisational assistance being provided to the pilgrims, religious place-wise; and

(d) the number of pilgrims likely to visit these religious places during 1997?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The number of pilgrims for various pilgrimages abroad during past three years is as under (These figures do not include pilgrims going through private tour operators) :

	1994	1995	1996
Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia	25,685	30,503	50,346
Sikh and Sehejdhari Jathas to Pakistan	5,380	5,210	5,085
Kailash Mansarovar Yatra	370	350	435